that person's cable service area. In other words, if you were in an area in which most families in the past had received TV signals using a regular rooftop antenna then you could be offered that same signal TV via cable. By having similar rules, satellite carriers will be able to directly compete with cable providers who already operate under the significantly viewed test. This gives home dish owners more choices of programming.

In the past, Congress got the job done. Congress worked well together in 1998 and 1999 when we developed a major satellite law that transformed the industry by allowing local television stations to be carried by satellite and beamed back down to the local communities served by those stations. This marked the first time that thousands of TV owners were able to get the full complement of local network stations. In 1997 we found a way to avoid cutoffs of satellite TV service to millions of homes and to protect the local affiliate broadcast system. The following year we forged an alliance behind a strong satellite bill to permit local stations to be offered by satellite, thus increasing competition between cable and satellite providers.

We also worked with the Public Broadcasting System so they could offer a national feed as they transitioned to having their local programming beamed up to satellites and then beamed back down to much larger audiences.

Because of those efforts, in Vermont and most other States, dish owners are able to watch their local stations instead of getting signals from distant stations. Such a service allows television watchers to be more easily connected to their communities as well as providing access to necessary emergency signals, news and broadcasts.

I hope we are able to work together to finish this important satellite television bill in the few remaining days of this Congress.

OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I rise to express my support for the conference report accompanying those appropriations bills which, because of our pending adjournment, have been included as an omnibus package.

I intend to vote for this omnibus bill knowing full well that, like all bills, it is not perfect in every Senator's eyes.

I want to thank Chairman STEVENS and Ranking Member Senator BYRD as well as the chairman and ranking members of the Subcommittees for including my requests which are vital to Colorado. As America's third fastest growing State, our burgeoning population has placed great stress on our schools, hospitals, universities and transportation. Federal monies, which I have sought to earmark as an appropriation for Colorado, are extremely important.

In this omnibus conference report over $175 million will be flowing into Colorado.

Having said this, there is one section in the bill that concerns me. Partially because it affects my State, but more so because it was never considered in the committee of jurisdiction. Neither was it discussed in the conference committee on Wednesday, November 19 as we worked out the final House and Senate disagreements.

I did not know of the language as the bill came to the floor just before we adjourned for the year. In fact, in a multi-hundred page bill I was not aware of it until after it passed. But, as I understand it, this language is in keeping with a long standing practice of satisfying Native American land claims.

Let me give some historical perspective to this issue as I understand it. In 1971, the U.S. Congress passed a bill which was signed into law called the ''Native American Claims Settlement Act''. This was an effort to bring a degree of fairness to native tribes of America's newest State—Alaska—who had lost much of the use of their aboriginal land through the encroachment and settlement of non-natives.

As part of the settlement, the native peoples were given use of 44 million acres and a percentage of the royalties from oil and gas production thereon. They shared these royalties with State government and for the purposes of administering their tribal governments and revenues. Alaska natives and tribes became shareholders of Native Alaskan corporations. They also retained the same rights that tribes in the lower 48 States and as they pertained to the ''trust responsibility'' of the Federal Government.

As I understand the 1971 act, however, these tribal corporations around the city of Anchorage were not considered land based tribes and were treated differently in terms of rights and benefits they would have accrued had they been in control of aboriginal land. These native groups (corporations) were allowed to use their portion of the accumulated revenue, in the form of ''bidding credits'', to purchase either Federal or private land in Alaska or other States. I only know of four States where land was actually purchased. Alaska, California, Hawaii and Colorado are the four I am aware of, although there may have been others. I have never been able to find a comprehensive list of land purchased, if it even exists.

The Native Alaskan corporations were authorized in the 1971 act to ''partner'' with tribes in the lower 48 on business ventures. So, in effect, the lower 48 tribes became recipients of badly needed investment capital provided by the Native Alaskan corporations while their ''partner'' could petition the Federal Government to put the land into trust status.

One such purchase was in downtown Denver. It had been a piece of Federal land, adjacent to the Federal courthouse and was being used as a parking lot for court employees. That lot was not put into trust, but was owned by the Native Alaskan Corporation.

There were, at the time, some preliminary discussions between one of the Colorado land based Ute Indian tribes and one Native Alaskan corporation on how best to use this ''native'' land for economic development purposes.

These purposes were limited by a variety of other laws such as the 1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, which did not allow tribes to have casino gaming unless they reached a negotiated agreement called a ''gaming compact'' with the State in which they were located. In turn, court decisions further complicated the picture. An example of this was in the Seminole vs. the State of Florida case. In 1996, the Supreme Court ruled that States cannot be ''forced'' to negotiate a compact with tribes as required by the 1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

At the time, I voided the discussions concerning the downtown piece of property about which I have spoken by implementing a suggestion from the Federal courts to submit a line item request to appropriate funds to purchase that parking lot back from the Native Alaska corporation. I did so and through subsequent appropriations secured the money to build a new Byron White Federal Court complex on that site.

Since I was not in the U.S. Senate in 1971, I can only give you my view of how that act affected this language in question. I don't know if it violates any existing statute, if my constituency would support or oppose it or if it is in keeping with the Native American Claims Settlement Act. This probably could have been flushed out through the hearing process had we seen it in bill form.

So, in closing Mr. President, because I was not aware of the language of this final conference report until about 2 hours ago and do not know the effect it would have on Colorado, I do not support that section. Since it is, however, included in a non-amendable conference report and, recognizing the importance of the money in this report to the State of Colorado, I will vote for the final report.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YMCA OF GREATER INDIANAPOLIS

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to call to the attention of my colleagues a signal anniversary that has occurred in my home State of Indiana, the 150th anniversary of the YMCA of Greater Indianapolis.

Since 1854, the YMCA of Greater Indianapolis has been committed not only to providing Hoosiers with an outlet